



**Montana  
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**opi.mt.gov**

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TO: System Test Coordinators, Test Administrators, Special Education Directors and Teachers, General Education Teachers, Title I Teachers, RTI Directors, System and Building Administrators

FROM: Judy Snow, State Assessment Director

DATE: January 2015

RE: Accommodations for the spring 2015 Science Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)

The accommodations for the spring 2015 CRT are the same as in 2014. In 2014, a new online request system was implemented for \*\* coded accommodations for students not identified as IEP/504. Please see pages 1 and 2 of this memo for criteria for use of accommodations coded \*\* for general education students. Instructions for the online process to request approval are provided to system test coordinators in a separate document.

### **Assessment Contact Information**

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### **Reminders**

- Accommodations are determined on an individual basis.
- There is no standard accommodation (including oral presentation) that provides an opportunity for a student to request or receive help on a specific word, phrase, line, pronunciation, definition, item, question, answer choice or any part of the assessment.
- Standard accommodations do not override standard administration of the CRT or the need for independent work by the students.
- Allowable standard accommodations for the CRT that are described in a student's IEP/504 Plan should match those used during the administration of the CRT.
- Non-standard accommodations for the CRT that are described in a student's IEP/504 Plan should be used during the administration of the CRT.
- Accommodations coded with \* are suggested as appropriate for students identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP).
- Accommodations coded with \*\* are intended for use with students identified as IEP/504/LEP. These accommodations must be listed in the student's IEP, 504 plan, or LEP plan.
  - In unusual circumstances, approval may be requested for a general education student (not identified as IEP/504/LEP) to be administered the CRT with an accommodation keyed with \*\*. In most cases, these are students who may have a medical emergency at the time of testing. In medical emergency cases, please contact Judy Snow, 406-444-3656 [jsnow@mt.gov](mailto:jsnow@mt.gov).

*The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support, and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.*

- For prospective cases in which the request is not related to a medical emergency, the guidelines below should be followed:
  - The accommodation has been in place and used regularly in classroom instruction for at least three consecutive months.
  - A team made the decision about the appropriateness of the accommodation for instruction and formalized assessments.
  - There are data to demonstrate the effectiveness of the accommodation for the student on formalized assessments.
  - The accommodation is used in the administration of ALL other formalized assessments such as MAPS, chapter tests, unit tests, and other tests administered to groups of students.

Table of Accommodation Use		
Student Population	Parameters for use of Standard Accommodations	Parameters for Use of Nonstandard Accommodations
<b>General student population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be used, must be based on individual student need and not an instructional strategy determined for a group of students.</li> <li>• Must be a practice routinely used by this student in classroom instruction and assessment for at least 2-3 months prior to testing;</li> <li>• Accommodation(s) used must be coded in the Student Answer Booklet on page 2.</li> <li>• Accommodations marked with ** are intended for students with IEPs, 504 plans or LEP plans only. Approval is required for general education students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not allowed under any circumstances.</li> </ul>
<b>Students with IEPs or 504 Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be used, based on individual student need.</li> <li>• Need for accommodation is documented in the student's IEP/504 Plan.</li> <li>• Allowable standard accommodations for the CRT that are described in a student's IEP/504 Plan should match those used during the administration of the CRT.</li> <li>• Accommodation(s) used must be coded in the Student Answer Booklet on page 2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be used if need for accommodation is documented in the student's IEP/504 Plan;</li> <li>• Accommodation(s) used must be coded in the Student Answer Booklet on Page 2;</li> <li>• Student's results for content area will not be calculated in the averages.</li> <li>• Student will be considered a non-participant.</li> <li>• Non-standard accommodations for the CRT that are described in a student's IEP/504 Plan should match those used during the administration of the CRT.</li> </ul>

<b>LEP Students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be used, based on individual student need and ideally included in an LEP plan.</li> <li>• Must be a practice routinely used by this student in classroom instruction and assessment for at least 2-3 months prior to testing;</li> <li>• Accommodation(s) used must be coded in the Student Answer Booklet on page 2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be used if need for accommodation is documented in the student's IEP/504 Plan or after consultation with the OPI state assessment director and the OPI bilingual specialist.</li> <li>• Accommodation(s) used must be coded in the Student Answer Booklet on Page 2;</li> <li>• Student's results for content area will not be calculated in averages.</li> <li>• Student will be considered a non-participant.</li> </ul>
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## Standard Accommodations

- An asterisk (\*) indicates standard accommodations that are useful and appropriate for LEP students.
- A double asterisk (\*\*) indicates standard accommodations that are limited to students with IEPs unless a request is submitted to the OPI online reporting system and approval granted. The guidelines on page 2 indicate eligibility for those requests.

<b>Scheduling Accommodations</b>	
1.	Change in administration time: test is administered at a time of day or a day of the week based on student needs.
2.	Session Duration: Test is administered in appropriate blocks of time for individual student needs, followed by rest breaks.
3.	N/A
<b>Setting Accommodations</b>	
4.	* Individual Administration: Test was administered in a one to one situation.
5.	* Small Group Administration: Test was administered to a small group of students. Recommend no more than fifteen students unless accommodation 22 for which no more than five students should be in the small group administration.
6.	Reduce Distracters: Student is seated at a carrel or other physical arrangement that reduces visual distraction.
7.	* Alternative Setting: Test is administered to the student in a different setting.
8.	* Change in Personnel: Test is administered by other personnel known to the student (e.g., LEP, Title I, special education teacher).
9.	Home Setting: Test is administered to the student by school personnel in their home.
10.	* Front Row Seating: A student is seated in the front of the classroom when taking the test.
11.	N/A
<b>Equipment Accommodations</b>	
12.	** Magnification: Student used equipment to magnify test materials.

13. ** Student (not groups of students) wears equipment to reduce environmental noises.
14. ** Template: Student uses a template. An example is a piece of card stock that has a window cut out which enables the student to focus by isolating lines or text or items.
15. ** Amplification: Student uses amplification equipment (e.g., hearing aid or auditory trainer) while taking test.
<p>16. ** Writing Tools: After the student completes typing a constructed response, the test administrator transfers what the student typed into the appropriate space in the Answer Booklet word-for-word exactly as the student typed it. The student may review what the test administrator wrote and advise changes; however, the test administrator may not clarify, elaborate, or make any changes not initiated by the student.</p> <p>NOTE: The answers must be directly transferred into the Answer Booklet with a number 2 pencil and <b>not be on a separate piece of paper</b> taped, glued, or stapled into the Answer Booklet.</p>
<p>17. ** Voice Activation: The student speaks a response into a computer equipped with voice activation software. After the student completes an answer, the test administrator transfers what the student said and, for constructed response, transfers word-for-word exactly what the student said into the appropriate space in the Answer Booklet. The student may review what the test administrator marked or wrote and advise changes; however, the test administrator may not clarify, elaborate, or make any changes not initiated by the student.</p> <p>NOTE: The answers must be directly transferred into the Answer Booklet with a number 2 pencil and <b>not be on a separate piece of paper</b> taped, glued, or stapled into the Answer Booklet.</p>
18. * Bilingual Dictionary: Student uses a bilingual dictionary (Note: Bilingual dictionary could include a simplified English dictionary, glossary or subject area vocabulary list).
<b>Recording Accommodations</b>
<p>19. ** Dictation: Student dictates answers to a test administrator who records them in the Answer Booklet. While the student completes dictating answers and/or a constructed response, the test administrator transfers what the student dictated, and for constructed responses writes what the student dictated into the appropriate space in the Answer Booklet word-for-word exactly as the student dictated it. The student may review what is bubbled or written; however, the test administrator may not clarify, elaborate, or make any changes not initiated by the student.</p> <p>NOTE: The answer must be directly transferred into the Answer Booklet with a number 2 pencil and <b>not be on a separate piece of paper</b> taped, glued or stapled into the Answer Booklet.</p>
<p>20. ** Writing Tools: The student marks or writes answers with the assistance of a technology device or special equipment. After the student completes an answer, the test administrator transfers what the student completed with a technology device or special equipment and, for constructed response, transfers word-for-word exactly what the student completed into the appropriate space in the Answer Booklet. The student may review what the test administrator marked or wrote and advise changes; however, the test administrator may not clarify, elaborate, or make any changes not initiated by the student.</p> <p>NOTE: The answers must be directly transferred into the Answer Booklet with a number 2 pencil and <b>not be on a separate piece of paper</b> taped, glued, or stapled into the Answer Booklet.</p>
21. ** Assistive Technology: Another form of assistive technology that does not change the intent or content of the test but is routinely used by the student, was employed by the

student (not groups of students) to take the test.	
Modality Accommodations	
22. *.** Oral Presentation:	<p><b>Science:</b> The test administrator must read the test items and answer choices word-for-word. Before reading aloud, the test administrator should advise students that each item and answer choice will be read aloud in exactly the order as presented. Students should also be advised that items, including answer choices, will be repeated at the end of a session in case the students wish to review/check their work.</p> <p>Cautions about oral presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This accommodation should be a low-incidence accommodation. Please consider the following to determine the appropriateness of this accommodation for each student. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assessment results are available to support the determination that the student's disability precludes or severely limits the student's ability to gain meaning from written language.</li> <li>○ There is documentation of remedial reading services and/or special education and supplementary aids and services.</li> <li>○ Through classroom assessment, it has been determined and documented that the student benefits from oral presentation as her/his way of learning. This accommodation could be applicable for LEP students whose oral/aural proficiencies (listening and speaking) significantly exceed their English reading and writing skills, i.e. the student recognizes a word when spoken, but not written.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Oral presentation should be limited to small groups of students, three to five students.</li> <li>• In advance of the test sessions, students should be advised to follow along with the text as it is being read.</li> </ul>
23. **.** Test Interpretation:	Tests, including directions, were interpreted for students who are deaf or hearing-impaired (with the exception of interpreting the reading test).
24. *.** Test Directions with Verification:	An administrator gave test directions with verification (by using a highlighter) so that the student understood them.
25. *.** Test Directions Support:	An administrator assisted students in understanding test directions, including giving directions in native language.
26. **.** Braille:	A Braille version of the test was used by the student.
27. Large Print:	A large print version of the test was used by the student.
28. Other:	With verification from OPI in advance of the testing window, some other approved standard accommodation was used by a student.

## Nonstandard Accommodations

33	<i>Other - Science: With verification from OPI in advance of the testing window, some other approved nonstandard accommodation is used by a student.</i>
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